

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed August 28, 2002:

1. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1;
2. Claims 1-6, 8-11, 24-28, 34-37, and 39-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Doggett (U.S. Patent 5,677,955) and Kasai (U.S. Patent 6,058,382);
3. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Doggett, Kasai and Remington (U.S. Patent 6,070,150);
4. Claims 12-19 and 29-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Doggett, Kasai and Nikander (U.S. Patent 6,029,151); and
5. Claims 20-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Doggett, Kasai and Downing (U.S. Patent 5,963,647).

The claims have been amended as indicated in the attached Appendix. An Advisory Action is requested.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1

The text added to the preamble of claim 1 in the previous reply (“without requiring direct communication between the users”) is fully disclosed in the application, as originally filed. For example, on page 12, lines 5-16, it is stated (emphasis added):

In one embodiment of the invention a value exchange transaction may be conducted by a single user (e.g., with his client device), while connected to or *disconnected from a system server* (e.g., communication server 104, synchronization server 106 of FIG. 1) *or another party's client*. In particular, in one embodiment of the invention a user initiates a transaction by submitting it to the system, which then takes action to close the transaction by notifying another participant, and possibly registering the other participant with the system. In an *alternative* embodiment, however, a transaction may be conducted in a *direct communication* between two (or more) parties, after which details of the transaction are submitted to one of the system servers. In this alternative embodiment, at least one of the parties (e.g., from whom value is being transferred) may be required to be registered with the system.

In the first embodiment referred to in this paragraph, a user may be *disconnected* from the

other party to a value exchange transaction, and submits the transaction to the system, not the other user. In one alternative embodiment, the parties may be connected, thus highlighting the disconnected nature of the first embodiment.

In addition, the preamble of claim 1 has been amended to more particularly describe the novelty of the claimed embodiment of the invention.

II. Doggett (U.S. Patent No. 5,677,955)

The invention disclosed in Doggett is described as providing a method of creating an electronic instrument for effecting a transfer of funds from a payer's account to a payee (column 3, lines 2-5). As one of several security mechanisms, the created instrument includes the payer's digital signature (column 3, lines 5-11; column 7, lines 14-20). There are significant differences between Doggett and claimed embodiments of Applicants' invention, which were identified in Applicants' previous reply but not addressed in the present office action.

A. **A Payer Notifies a Payee of a Transfer**

The method of transferring funds described in Doggett provides for the transfer of an electronic check directly from a payer to the payee (column 7, lines 49-64). Only after the payee endorses the electronic check does it go to a third party (column 8, lines 4-18). In other words, in Doggett, the institution that maintains the funds transferred by the payer (e.g., the payer's bank), as well as the institution that will receive the funds for the payee (e.g., the payee's bank), are only notified of the transaction after the parties have conducted the transaction.

The system of Doggett need not, and does not, notify the payee of the transaction, because the payee is notified by receipt of the electronic check. The paragraph cited by the Examiner as anticipating Applicants' use of the value exchange system to notify a user of a transaction (i.e., column 7, line 65 et seq) merely describes how the payee processes an electronic check. The "notification" passing between the payee and a third party is an inherent notification of a banking institution, by the payee. Doggett thus operates in a manner opposite to, and teaches away from, Applicants' claimed method of notification, in which a value transfer system provides notification to a user.

B. Doggett Cannot Identify a Value Recipient by Electronic Mail Address

Because the value transfer method of Doggett employs an electronic check that mimics a paper check (column 7, lines 11-20), the payer must use the payee's *name* to identify him or her (column 10, line 5 *et seq.*; column 7, line 52). An electronic check may include the *payer's* electronic mail address, but merely for the purpose of enabling the payee to acknowledge receipt of the electronic check (column 10, lines 13-17).

Doggett emphasizes the security features of the disclosed method of transferring funds using an electronic check. In particular, Doggett requires digital signatures for signing or endorsing a check, and digital certificates for authenticating various entities (column 7, lines 14-20; column 10, lines 41-57; column 10, line 58 to column 11, line 14; column 11, lines 15-33). Just as the electronic check is made out in a payee's name, an entity's digital certification is described as including the *name* of the entity (column 11, line 10). Thus, the security of a fund transfer in Doggett relies upon proper identification of a party, by name.

As indicated in sections cited by the Examiner, Doggett may provide for the delivery of an electronic check by electronic mail (column 9, line 43; column 12, lines 33-36). However, Doggett does not contemplate the use of an electronic mail address to identify the payee for purposes of payment, in an electronic check or other transfer, and does not teach or suggest the use of a party's electronic mail in an actual transfer, as provided in claims of the present application.

C. Doggett's System Does Not Receive a Transaction from the Payer

In the method described in Doggett, an electronic check is created by the payer and sent to the payee (column 7, line 49 *et seq.*). As mentioned above (section V.1), *after* receipt and endorsement by the payee, a financial institution or other third party may be notified (column 8, lines 15-18). Thus, it is the *payee*, not the *payer* that submits a funds transfer instrument for settlement. This is counter to, and teaches away from, claimed methods of Applicants' operation.

D. Doggett Does Not Register or Establish an Account for a Payer

Doggett does not teach or suggest the establishment of an account for the payer. The method of value transfer taught by Doggett involves the generation and dissemination of an

electronic check, by a payer, without any action required on the part of the payer's financial institution until after the payee receives the transfer instrument. In a section cited by the Examiner (column 4, line 37 et seq), Doggett describes the assignment of digital account numbers to *account holders*, for creating electronic instruments. Thus, payers must already be account holders before they can use the Doggett method. Interacting with a registered account holder is fundamentally different from registering someone in order to provide a service.

E. Doggett Does Not Register or Establish an Account for a Payee

The Doggett method does not teach the registration of a payer or a payee. In the section cited by the Examiner (column 12, line 53 et seq), a payee endorses an electronic check and assigns a sequential transaction number. This number may be used to reconcile checks reported in a bank statement. Claim 1 recites the registration of a first user as part of the claimed method. In contrast, Doggett requires a user to already have an account with a financial institution.

In short, Doggett does not teach or suggest a method in which a party to a fund transfer can be registered *in conjunction with receipt of the transfer*. Nor does Doggett describe a system configured to perform such registration.

F. Doggett Does Not Provide a Value Exchange System

In Doggett, a payer sends a financial instrument directly to a payee (column 7, lines 62-64); the payee forwards the payment information to its account receivable system (column 8, lines 12-15) and deposits the instrument with the payee's bank (column 8, lines 15-18). The payee's bank then clears the instrument with the payer's bank (column 8, lines 24-27). Thus, there is no entity comparable to Applicants' "value exchange system." The payer's and payee's banks merely allow settlement of the instrument; they are not even aware of the transaction until the parties have already conducted it.

In claimed embodiments of Applicants' invention, a value exchange system takes several actions to facilitate an exchange of value. Doggett does not teach or suggest a comparable entity for receiving a value transfer request from a first party, registering the first party, generating and sending a notification to the second party, executing the transfer, etc.

III. Kasai (U.S. Patent No. 6,058,382)

Kasai discloses an “Electronic Money Holding Device Utilizing an Automatic Payment Method” (title). In particular, Kasai discusses a device (an IC card) for storing electronic money and a method of using the device to transfer the stored money for a pre-existing contract having a due date (column 1, lines 51-64). The device and method of Kasai significantly differ from claimed embodiments of Applicants’ invention.

A. A Payer Notifies a Payee of a Transfer

The method of transferring electronic money described in Kasai provides for a payer or service buyer to transfer funds from the payer’s IC card directly to a service provider (e.g., column 2, lines 23-30; column 5, lines 33-36). The Examiner opines that this constitutes notification of both parties to the transaction (paragraph 5 of the office action). Even if this does constitute notification, then, as in Doggett, it involves the *payer* notifying the payee, and it is performed concurrently with the actual transfer. As with Doggett, this teaches away from claimed embodiments of the present invention.

B. Kasai Requires Direct Communication Between Payer and Payee

The Examiner cites to column 5, lines 30-32, wherein a user (i.e., payer) connects to a service provider and verifies that he or she is connected to the correct party. As with Doggett, this requires direct communication between the parties. This also teaches away from a claimed embodiment of Applicants’ invention.

C. Kasai Does Not Provide a Value Exchange System

In Kasai, a buyer or payer sends electronic money directly to a service provider (column 5, lines 33-36).

In claimed embodiments of Applicants’ invention, a value exchange system takes several actions to facilitate an exchange of value. Doggett does not teach or suggest a comparable entity for receiving a value transfer request from a first party, registering the first party, generating and sending a notification to the second party, executing the transfer, etc.

IV. Selected Claims

A. **Claims 1, 39, 45-47**

There are several aspects of Applicants' invention, as recited in claims 1 and 39, which Doggett and Kasai fail to teach or suggest.

1. "facilitating a value exchange between multiple users in a distributed value exchange system *without requiring a user to initiate a communication to another user*"

Doggett and Kasai require direct contact or communication between the sender and the recipient of a fund transfer. "The payer 12 then electronically sends the instrument 74 and the memorandum 66 ... to the payee 14" (Doggett, column 7, lines 62-64). "When the computer 7 of the user and the service provider money transaction management system 4 are connected ..." (Kasai, column 5, lines 28-30).

As recited in the amended preamble to claims 1 and 39, the users involved in the claimed embodiment of a method of facilitating a value exchange do not require direct communication with each other, and need not initiate communications between themselves.

2. "receiving at the value exchange system a value exchange transaction from the first user, wherein said transaction involves a second user"

As described above, in neither Doggett nor Kasai is there a value exchange system for facilitating a value exchange between two users. Until a transaction is completed between a payer and a payee in the Doggett system, and an electronic check is forwarded to the payee's financial institution, only the payer and the payee know about the transaction. Similarly, in Kasai, a transfer of electronic money needs only a buyer and a service provider, who communicate directly to execute the transfer.

3. "at the value exchange system, ... generating a notification of said value exchange transaction [and] sending said notification to the second user"

The Examiner states, in paragraph 5 of the office action, that Doggett "does not disclose sending notification before a value is: allocated, transferred, or connection is received from a

second party/user.” In both Doggett and Kasai, notification of a money transfer takes the form of the transfer itself. In particular, notification of a transfer to a payee arrives simultaneously with the value transferred from the payer. Further, the notifications are provided *directly* to the payee *by the payer*, the same party that originated the transfer.

As recited in claims 1 and 39, a *value exchange system* generates and sends a notification to a payee regarding a transfer initiated by a payer.

4. “at the value exchange system, ... allocating said value between said first account and a second account associated with the second user”

In Doggett and Kasai, the payer not only performs notification of a transfer, but also performs the transfer. These systems do not include a value exchange system to receive a transfer transaction, send notification and perform the transfer.

These systems thus teach away from claimed embodiments of Applicants’ invention. For example, in claims 1 and 39 the value exchange system allocates or transfers value between a payer and a payee.

5. Creating User Accounts

New claims 45-47 demonstrate embodiments of the invention in which a value transfer system creates an account for a party at the time of a value transfer. This differs from using pre-existing accounts, as in Doggett or Kasai.

B. Claims 26, 40

Claims 26 and 40 include the following elements not found in Doggett or Kasai:

1. “receiving an instruction from a first user to exchange a value with a second user ...”

Contrary to this element of claim 26, Doggett does not provide a “distributed transaction system” or an entity equivalent to a distributed transaction system. In Doggett, a payer initiates a financial instrument and sends it to a payee. The payer may do so in response to a bill, invoice

or order form from the payee (column 7, lines 40-42), but this still only involves the payer and payee.

Similarly, Kasai a payer initiates a payment directly to a service provider. The payer does not send an instruction to a “distributed transaction system.”

Therefore, one would not look to Doggett or Kasai, which require direct contact between the payer and payee, if interested in implementing a method of facilitating an exchange of value between multiple users through a distributed transaction system.

- (a) “an identifier of a second user not registered with the distributed transaction system ...”

As discussed above, neither Doggett nor Kasai provides a “distributed transaction system” or an entity equivalent to a distributed transaction system. Further, Doggett requires both the payer and payee to be registered clients of their respective banks. Otherwise, the methods described in Doggett could not function.

Similarly, users of the Kasai system must be known. For example, each user’s IC card has a unique identification code (column 3, lines 24-26). And, service providers to which a user may make a payment are also already known by their “purse ID,” along with details of any contract between them (column 3, lines 43-45).

Thus, because users in Doggett and Kasai must already be known, an instruction to exchange a value (if Doggett or Kasai could be interpreted to teach the use of such an instruction) could not include an identifier of a user who is not registered, and Doggett and Kasai therefore *teach away* from the claimed embodiment of the invention.

- 2. “notifying the second user of said value exchange by the distributed transaction system”

As discussed above, Doggett and Kasai do not provide a “distributed transaction system” or an entity equivalent to a distributed transaction system, as recited in claim 26. Therefore, these references cannot and do not teach or suggest the notification of a payee, of a value exchange involving the payee, by a distributed transaction system. Doggett and Kasai require the payee be notified by the payer, and therefore teach away from this aspect of the claimed embodiment of the invention.

3. “registering the second user with the distributed transaction system”

As discussed above, Doggett does not provide a “distributed transaction system” or an entity equivalent to a distributed transaction system, as recited in claim 26. And, in Doggett, the payee must already be registered with his or her bank before he or she can settle the payer’s financial instrument through the bank. Similarly, a user or service provider must already be known, in Kasai, before a user can transfer electronic money to a service provider.

4. “transferring said value between the first user and the second user within the distributed transaction system.”

As discussed above, Doggett does not provide a “distributed transaction system” or an entity equivalent to a distributed transaction system, as recited in claim 26. Therefore, there is no one entity in Doggett that can transfer value between a payer and a payee.

Doggett requires a payee’s bank to credit the payee’s account with that bank, and the payer’s bank to debit the payer’s account with that bank. In Kasai, electronic money is transferred directly from a user to a service provider. Thus, Doggett and Kasai teach away from Applicants’ invention as recited in claims 26 and 40.

C. Claims 30, 41

Claims 30 and 41 recite the registration of a first user, receiving a financial exchange request from the first user at the financial services system, generating and sending notification of the request to a second user from the system, and allocating the amount of the exchange within the system. As described above, Doggett and Kasai neither teach nor suggest these actions.

Doggett requires a payer (and, for that matter, a payee) to already have financial accounts established with their respective banks. Kasai’s users and service providers are also already registered and associated with unique IDs. Doggett specifies that a financial instrument (an electronic check) will not come to the attention of a financial institution until *after* it is received and endorsed by the payee. And, in both Doggett and Kasai, money transfers are conducted directly between users, and the payee is notified of a transfer *by the payer*.

D. Claim 34

Claim 34 is directed to a value exchange system configured to facilitate the exchange of value between users. The value exchange system of claim 34 identifies the second party to a transaction using an electronic mail address. And, the system notifies the second party of the transaction.

In Doggett, a recipient/payee of a transaction is identified by name, not by electronic mail address, and is notified of the transaction by the sender/payer, not a value exchange system. In Kasai, a payee is identified by a purse ID, not an electronic mail address, and is notified of the transaction by the payer, not a value exchange system.

E. Claim 42

Claim 42 requires a value receiver to be identifiable, for the purposes of a value transfer, only by an electronic mail address. Doggett requires “the identity of the payee” (Abstract, column 3, lines 15-16, column 4, lines 28-30). An electronic check, for example, would require the payee’s name (column 7, lines 50-52), an electronic mail address would not be sufficient.

To execute the received financial instrument, the payee in Doggett also must endorse the instrument with his or her digital signature (column 8, lines 4-5). Because the payee forwards the instrument to his or her bank, the payee’s bank account number is also needed.

Thus, a payee in Doggett is identifiable in multiple ways, and the methods of Doggett could not function if a payee were identifiable only by an electronic mail address.

F. Claim 43

The embodiment of claim 43 also requires a party receiving a value transfer to only be identifiable by an electronic mail address.

In addition, the method of claim 43 requires a value transfer system and a request to transfer value, through the value transfer system, to a party not registered with the system. The unregistered party is registered with the system after a request is received to transfer value to that party.

As described above, Doggett and Kasai teach away from the use of a “value transfer system.” Further, a payee in Doggett must already be a customer of the entity from which he or

she receives funds (i.e., the payee's bank). Similarly, users and service providers must already be registered in Kasai before they can send or receive electronic money.

G. Claim 44

Claim 44 has been amended, not for purposes of patentability, but to replace a word inadvertently omitted from the claim.

In the embodiment of the invention reflected in claim 44, a value transfer system sends notification of a value transfer to the recipient. Doggett teaches away from this by requiring a payee to be notified of a value transfer by the party transferring the value. This teaches away from the claimed embodiment of the invention wherein no contact is required between the first and second users.

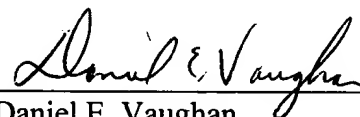
CONCLUSION

No new matter has been added with the preceding amendments. It is submitted that the Examiner's rejections have been traversed and the present application is in suitable condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested. If prosecution of this application may be facilitated through a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorney identified below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 22, 2002

By:


Daniel E. Vaughan 42,199
(Registration No.)

Park, Vaughan & Fleming LLP
702 Marshall Street, Suite 310
Redwood City, CA 94063
(650) 474-1973: voice
(650) 474-1976: facsimile



APPENDIX A

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

1. (Twice Amended) A method of facilitating a value exchange between multiple users in a distributed value exchange system without requiring a user to initiate a communication to another user [direct communication between the users], the method comprising:

- (a) registering a first user with the value exchange system, wherein the first user is assigned a first account with the value exchange system;
- (b) receiving at the value exchange system a value exchange transaction from the first user, wherein said transaction involves a second user and includes:
 - (i) a pre-existing identifier of the second user, wherein the pre-existing identifier enables communication with the second user independent of the value exchange system; and
 - (ii) a value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user;and
- (c) at the value exchange system:
 - (i) generating [sending] a notification of said value exchange transaction [from the value exchange system];
 - (ii) sending said notification to the second user; and
- [(d)] (iii) allocating said value between said first account and a second account associated with the second user.

2. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
[(c')] registering the second user with the value exchange system if not already registered.

3. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein said value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user is to be transferred from the first user to the

second user.

4. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein said value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user is to be transferred from the second user to the first user.

5. (Unchanged) The method of claim 3, wherein said value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user is receivable by the second user as a redeemable voucher.

6. (Unchanged) The method of claim 5, wherein said redeemable voucher is redeemable by the second user by selecting an electronic link provided to the second user.

7. (Unchanged) The method of claim 5, wherein the redeemable voucher includes an electronic advertisement.

8. (Unchanged) The method of claim 3, wherein said value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user is receivable by the second user through a debit card.

9. (Unchanged) The method of claim 3, wherein said value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user is receivable by the second user in the form of a web certificate, and wherein the method further comprises:

transferring said value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user from the second user to a third user.

10. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein said pre-existing identifier is a telephone number.

11. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein said pre-existing identifier

is an electronic mail address.

12. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving a value exchange transaction comprises:

initiating a value exchange involving a second user on a mobile client device of said first user;

establishing a connection between the first user and the value exchange system;
and

transmitting said value exchange to the system.

13. (Unchanged) The method of claim 12, wherein said initiating a value exchange transaction comprises establishing a communication link between the first user's mobile computing device and a second user's mobile client device.

14. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein said value exchange transaction is received from the first user through a mobile communication device.

15. (Unchanged) The method of claim 14, wherein the mobile communication device is a personal digital assistant.

16. (Unchanged) The method of claim 14, wherein the mobile communication device is a telephone.

17. (Unchanged) The method of claim 14, wherein the mobile communication device is a two-way pager.

18. (Unchanged) The method of claim 14, wherein said value exchange transaction is received from the mobile communication device through a wireless network.

19. (Unchanged) The method of claim 14, wherein the mobile

communication device is a disconnectable device.

20. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, further comprising converting said value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user from a first form to a second form.

21. (Unchanged) The method of claim 20, wherein said first form is a first currency and said second form is a second currency.

22. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein the form of said value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user depends on the pre-existing identifier.

23. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, further comprising holding said value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user in escrow with an escrow party until said value exchange transaction is completed.

24. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, further comprising repeating (b), (c) and (d) for a second value exchange transaction between the second user and a third user.

25. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein an asymmetric cryptographic scheme is applied to secure said value exchange transaction.

26. (Twice Amended) A method of facilitating an exchange of value between multiple users through a distributed transaction system, comprising:

(a) receiving an instruction from a first user to exchange a value with a second user, wherein the first user is a registered user of the distributed transaction system and the instruction includes:

(i) an identifier of a second user not registered with the distributed transaction system, wherein said identifier is usable to identify the second user

independently of the distributed transaction system; and

(ii) the value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user;

(b) notifying the second user of said value exchange by the distributed transaction system;

(c) registering the second user with the distributed transaction system; and

(d) transferring said value between the first user and the second user within the distributed transaction system.

27. (Unchanged) The method of claim 26, wherein said identifier is an electronic mail address.

28. (Unchanged) The method of claim 26, wherein said identifier is a telephone number.

29. (Unchanged) The method of claim 26, wherein said instruction is received through a mobile communication device operated by the first user.

30. (Twice Amended) A method of facilitating a financial transaction between a first user and a second user through a distributed financial services system, the method comprising:

(a) registering a first user with the distributed financial services system;

(b) receiving at the distributed financial services system a financial exchange request from a mobile communication device operated by the first user, wherein said financial transaction request includes:

(i) a pre-existing identifier of a second user participating in said financial exchange, wherein said pre-existing identifier is configured to identify the second user for a purpose other than conducting a financial exchange with the financial services system; and

(ii) an amount of the financial exchange;

(c) generating and sending a notification of said financial exchange request

from the distributed financial service system to the second user; and

(d) within the distributed financial service system, allocating said amount of said financial exchange between the first user and the second user.

31. (Unchanged) The method of claim 30, wherein said pre-existing identifier is an electronic mail address.

32. (Unchanged) The method of claim 30, wherein said pre-existing identifier is a telephone number.

33. (Unchanged) The method of claim 30, further comprising:

(c') registering the second user with the distributed financial services system before allocating said amount of said financial exchange.

34. (Once Amended) A value exchange system for exchanging value between multiple users, comprising:

a database configured to store information concerning registered users of the value exchange system and details of transactions conducted by the registered users;

a synchronization server configured to receive a first value exchange transaction from a client device operated by a first party, wherein said first value exchange transaction involves a second party identified by the first party with an electronic mail address; and

a communication server configured to:

notify the second party of said first value exchange transaction using said electronic mail address; and

receive a connection from the second party and register the second party if not already registered.

35. (Unchanged) The system of claim 34, further comprising a financial server configured to interact with a financial institution to access value to facilitate said first value exchange transaction.

36. (Unchanged) The system of claim 34, further comprising a security server configured to generate a digital identity certificate that may be used to authenticate the first party.

37. (Unchanged) The system of claim 36, wherein said security server is further configured to authenticate a digital transaction certificate that may be used to authenticate said value exchange transaction.

38. CANCEL

39. (Once Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method of facilitating a value exchange between multiple users in a distributed value exchange system without requiring a user to initiate a communication to another user [direct communication between the users], the method comprising:

(a) registering a first user with the value exchange system, wherein the first user is assigned a first account with the value exchange system;

(b) receiving at the value exchange system a value exchange transaction from the first user, wherein said transaction involves a second user and includes:

(i) a pre-existing identifier of the second user, wherein the pre-existing identifier enables communication with the second user independent of the value exchange system; and

(ii) a value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user;

and

(c) at the value exchange system:

(i) generating [sending] a notification of said value exchange transaction [from the value exchange system];

(ii) sending said notification to the second user; and

[(d)] (iii) allocating said value between said first account and a second account associated with the second user.

40. (Once Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to a method of facilitating an exchange of value between multiple users through a distributed transaction system, the method comprising:

(a) receiving an instruction from a first user to exchange a value with a second user, wherein the first user is a registered user of the distributed transaction system and the instruction includes:

(i) an identifier of a second user not registered with the distributed transaction system, wherein said identifier is usable to identify the second user independently of the distributed transaction system; and

(ii) the value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user;

(b) notifying the second user of said value exchange by the distributed transaction system;

(c) registering the second user with the distributed transaction system; and

(d) transferring said value between the first user and the second user within the distributed transaction system.

41. (Once Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to a method of facilitating a financial transaction between a first user and a second user through a distributed financial services system, the method comprising:

(a) registering a first user with the distributed financial services system;

(b) receiving at the distributed financial services system a financial exchange request from a mobile communication device operated by the first user, wherein said financial transaction request includes:

(i) a pre-existing identifier of a second user participating in said financial exchange, wherein said pre-existing identifier is configured to identify the second user for a purpose other than conducting a financial exchange with the financial services system; and

- (ii) an amount of the financial exchange;
- (c) generating and sending a notification of said financial exchange request from the distributed financial service system to the second user; and
- (d) within the distributed financial service system, allocating said amount of said financial exchange between the first user and the second user.

42. (Unchanged) A system for facilitating the transfer of value from one user to another user, comprising:

means for receiving a value transfer request from a value provider, wherein said value transfer request comprises:

an electronic mail address of a value receiver; and

a first value to be transferred from the value provider to the value receiver;

means for transferring said first value from a first account associated with the value provider to a second account associated with the value receiver; and

means for notifying the value receiver of said value transfer;

wherein the value receiver is identifiable, for purposes of said value transfer, only by said electronic mail address.

43. (Once Amended) A method of transferring value, comprising:
receiving a connection from a registered user of a value transfer system;
receiving from the registered user a request to execute a transfer to an unregistered party, wherein the unregistered party is identified only by an electronic mail address, the request comprising:

said electronic mail address of the unregistered party; and

a first value to be transferred to the unregistered party; [and]

sending notification of said transfer from said value transfer system to the unregistered party via electronic mail;

registering the unregistered party, wherein said registering comprises creating an account for the unregistered party; and

at the value transfer system, transferring said first value from the registered user to the unregistered user.

44. (Once Amended) A method of transferring value, comprising:
receiving a connection from a first user of a value transfer system;
receiving from the first user a request to execute a value transfer to a second user,
the request comprising:
an electronic mail address of the second user; and
a first value to be transferred to the second user; and
sending a notification of said value transfer from said value transfer system to the
second user via electronic mail;
wherein said electronic mail address is sufficient for said value transfer system to
transfer said first value from an account of the first user to an account associated with the
second user.

45. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said registering the first
user comprises creating said first account.

46. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein said receiving comprises
said registering.

47. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said allocating comprises:
creating said second account; and
registering the second user.